

*For Immediate Release*

## **The NHP Foundation Reaches the Disabled with eSSENTIAL Accessibility™**


*Foundation expands programming and availability for low-income families with physical disabilities*

**May 17, 2011** – The NHP Foundation (NHPF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to making investments that preserve and create affordable multifamily housing for low-to moderate-income families and seniors, is proud to announce a new alliance with eSSENTIAL Accessibility™. As part of a Disability Community Involvement initiative, this new partnership will allow NHPF to extend their comprehensive array of programs and services aimed to enhance the quality of life for its residents, to those with physical disabilities.

eSSENTIAL Accessibility™ is leading this initiative by bringing organizations together to connect with and empower the disability community in a meaningful way. eSSENTIAL Accessibility™ allows organizations to make expensive assistive technology available to all for free, thereby extending access to important online information and services to more Americans.

The NHP Foundation is the first housing development program to join the initiative.

"Each of our residents deserve to live in safe, clean and functional housing that is affordable to them, and we strive to ensure each of them lives with utmost dignity," Richard F. Burns, CEO "This belief applies to those with physical disabilities and challenges as well; and with the launch of eSSENTIAL Accessibility™, our residents with physical limitations can access our services and support programs and continue to build their communities."

Users can click on the  icon located on the NHPF homepage and use the assistive technology to access the foundation's information on housing, programs and services. The application is available to the more than 20 million Americans who have difficulty typing, moving a mouse or reading a web page. It is a virtual wheelchair for websites that empowers users with dexterity limitations that arise from a variety of conditions including stroke, paralysis, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's disease among others. It also helps individuals who have difficulty reading because of literacy deficiencies, limited English proficiency, dyslexia, or mild visual impairment.

“The NHP Foundation’s efforts to support the disability community is a reflection of their commitment to helping individuals maintain their dignity as they seek affordable housing and support services,” explains Simon Dermer, managing director, eSSENTIAL Accessibility™. “The Foundation is the leading the charge and setting a precedent for others by joining this initiative and providing an enhanced quality of life for their communities.”

#### **About NHPF**

*The NHP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making investments that preserve and create affordable multifamily housing for low- to moderate-income families and seniors. Over the last 22 years NHPF has procured and preserved 43 properties, consisting approximately of 9,000 units in 15 states. Today, it currently owns approximately 4,000 units in the South Central, Mid Atlantic, North East and South East, providing quality affordable housing to thousands of residents. Its holistic approach combines safe, clean, affordable housing with resident services that offer a wide variety of education, health, and enrichment programs for children, their parents and seniors.*

#### **About eSSENTIAL Accessibility™**

*eSSENTIAL Accessibility™ makes online environments instantly accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. It is a virtual wheelchair for websites that empowers users with dexterity limitations that arise from a variety of conditions including stroke, paralysis, arthritis, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and Parkinson’s disease among others. Moreover, it also helps those who have difficulty reading because of literacy deficiencies, limited English proficiency, dyslexia, or mild visual impairment. Organizations feature the eSSENTIAL Accessibility™ icon as part of a Disability Community Involvement initiative sponsored by March of Dimes Canada. The symbol displayed on the homepage acts as a clickable icon through which any visitor can download the assistive technology they require free of charge. For more information visit [www.essentialaccessibility.com](http://www.essentialaccessibility.com).*

For more information contact:

Thomas G. Vaccaro  
The NHP Foundation  
202-312-2507  
[tvaccaro@nhpfoundation.org](mailto:tvaccaro@nhpfoundation.org)

Simon Dermer  
eSSENTIAL Accessibility™  
416-821-2410  
[sdermer@essentialaccessibility.com](mailto:sdermer@essentialaccessibility.com)